

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR HOGUES**

**RE: Supporting the NFTA's Application for a Department of Homeland Security Transit Security Grant for FY 2013**

WHEREAS, several recent terrorist threats to Western New York and Southern Ontario have been discovered and thwarted; and

WHEREAS, the most recent example is the planned attack on a VIA passenger train that traverses the U.S. – Canadian border utilizing the Whirlpool Bridge in Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, Canadian authorities were successful in stopping this attack, which has brought to light the potential and continued vulnerability of our bi-national region; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings, the aforementioned conspiracy that may be linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network in Iran, and the new, enhanced requirements to check the status of student visas at all international crossings into the U.S., securing a funding level commensurate with our need for counter-terrorism efforts in Western New York has become even more urgent; and

WHEREAS, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) has applied for homeland security funds for six new Transit Police Department Officers as well as the training, equipment and support they will need – including two explosive detection dogs – to better protect transit passengers; and

WHEREAS, the NFTA is also seeking funding for an *Advanced Regional Counterterrorism Technology Innovation Center* whose mission would be to identify and prevent terrorist activities in the various transportation modalities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, a third purpose for the funds would be to increase directed patrols during high threat holiday periods and during highly attended events in downtown Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Charles E. Schumer has communicated his keen interest in providing the NFTA with the added resources it needs from the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, enhanced border security and robust anti-terrorism security measures are called for to protect the very important economic relationship and transportation infrastructure that exists between the U.S. and Canada, as well as the millions of residents that call the GTA (Greater Toronto Area), the bi-national Niagara Region and Western New York home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey its full support for the application submitted by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) for a Fiscal Year 2013 Transit Security Grant to be administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; the WNY Congressional Delegation; Kimberly Minkel, Executive Director of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.